

KBR:kbr 12/30/04 339263
PATENT

Attorney Reference Number 3382-51187-01
Application Number 09/197,080

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended by adding language from objected to dependent claim 16. Claims 9, 17, and 18 have been amended to reflect this change.

Please cancel claims 15, 16, and 19 without prejudice.

Claims 2-8, 10-14, and 20-45 are unchanged. Claims 46-60 were previously canceled.

Claims 1-14, 17, 18 and 20-45 should be allowable.

The Applicant still disagrees with the prior rejections of claims 1-15 and 19, but has made the foregoing changes to expedite prosecution.

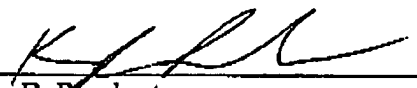
With the Notice of Allowance, please provide the following initialed Form 1449s: (1) page 1 (of 2) of the Form 1449 for the IDS filed February 16, 1999 (received by the US PTO on February 22, 1999), which lists among other things U.S. Patent No. 3,427,443; (2) page 1 (of 1) of the Form 1449 for the IDS filed January 10, 2000 (received by the US PTO on January 18, 2000), which lists among other things two non-patent references by Aral et al.; (3) page 1 (of 1) of the Form 1449 for the IDS filed January 19, 2000 (received by the US PTO on February 1, 2000), which lists among other things non-patent references by Keppel and Larus et al.; (4) page 1 (of 1) of the Form 1449 for the IDS filed April 1, 2004 (received by the US PTO on April 5, 2004), which lists among other things non-patent references by Hamlin and Kimelman et al.

The Applicant is filing this RCE to safeguard against a holding of abandonment of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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